

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04451 100635Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 VO-05 INSE-00
SSO-00 /046 W

-----067753 100639Z /15

O P 100610Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9829
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: IPP-78: REFUGEES FROM JOS. STOVE WILL BE GIVEN FIRST ASYLUM
IN NORWAY

REF: HONG KONG 4408 AND PREVIOUS

1. HONG KONG GOVT (POLITICAL ADVISOR) WILSON HAS NOW APPROACHED
US ON THE 71 INDOCHINA BOAT CASE REFUGEES FROM NORWEGIAN
TANKER JOHANNESBURG STOVE TRANSITING HONG KONG FOR PROCESSING
FOR NORWAY.

2. WILSON STATED THAT HKG WANTS ALL 71 REFUGEES OUT OF HONG KONG
WITHIN FOUR AND HOPEFULLY TWO DAYS. REFUGEE ACCOMMODATIONS

HERE ARE VERY TIGHT AND WITH WINDS FAVORABLE IT IS ANTICIPATED
THAT MORE BOAT CASE REFUGEES WILL BE ARRIVING SOON. HKG IS
CONCERNED THAT SOME OF THE 71 REFUGEES WILL REFUSE TO GO TO NORWAY
UNLESS THEY ARE TOLD THEY WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY
TO OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING U.S., FOR RESETTLEMENT AFTER
ARRIVAL IN NORWAY. IT HOPES THAT THE USG WILL ACCEPT ITS
INTERPRETATION THAT THE REFUGEES ARE HERE IN TRANSIT
STATUS AND THAT NORWAY IS FIRST COUNTRY OF ASYLUM,
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THEREBY PERMITTING REFUGEES TO BE INFORMED THAT
THEY COULD MAKE APPLICATIONS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES
FOLLOWING ARRIVAL IN NORWAY.

3. REQUEST DEPT'S DECISION ON WHETHER THESE BOAT CASE
REFUGEES WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO U.S. UNDER
IPP-78 AND/OR CEP AFTER REACHING NORWAY. WE HOPE

DECISION WILL BE FAVORABLE GIVEN HONG KONG'S
HUMANITARIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS BOAT CASE REFUGEES
TO DATE (26 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARRIVED ON JUNK
YESTERDAY) AND FACT THAT IF HKG HAD REFUSED ENTRY,
THE NEXT PORT OF CALL FOR JOS. STOVE WAS LOS ANGELES.

4. REQUEST DECISION BY IMMEDIATE CABLE SINCE PROCESSING
THESE REFUGEES IS STARTING TODAY AND KNOWLEDGE
THAT THEY COULD APPLY FOR U.S. RESETTLEMENT WILL HAVE
A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON REGUEEE ATTITUDES.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, POLITICAL ASYLUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK04451
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780153-0901
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780475/aaaacvj.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7196aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 HONG KONG 4408
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3023363
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IPP-78: REFUGEES FROM JOS. STOVE WILL BE GIVEN FIRST ASYLUM IN NORWAY
TAGS: SREF, HK, VM, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7196aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014